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ABSTRACT

Instructions for making simple masks are provided in this guide for teachers of elementary children. Directions with illustrations are given for constructing masks from paper plates, construction paper, plastic milk jugs, and papier-mache. Ideas include a clown mask, a flower mask, a top hat, a paper crown, and "Groucho" glasses. Types of masks include headband styles, cone face masks, cone hat masks, and formed paper masks. Suggestions for needed supplies, teacher preparation, student motivation, and construction procedures are given for the 14 designs. This document is part of a collection of materials from the Iowa Education Agency 7 Teacher Center project. (JW)

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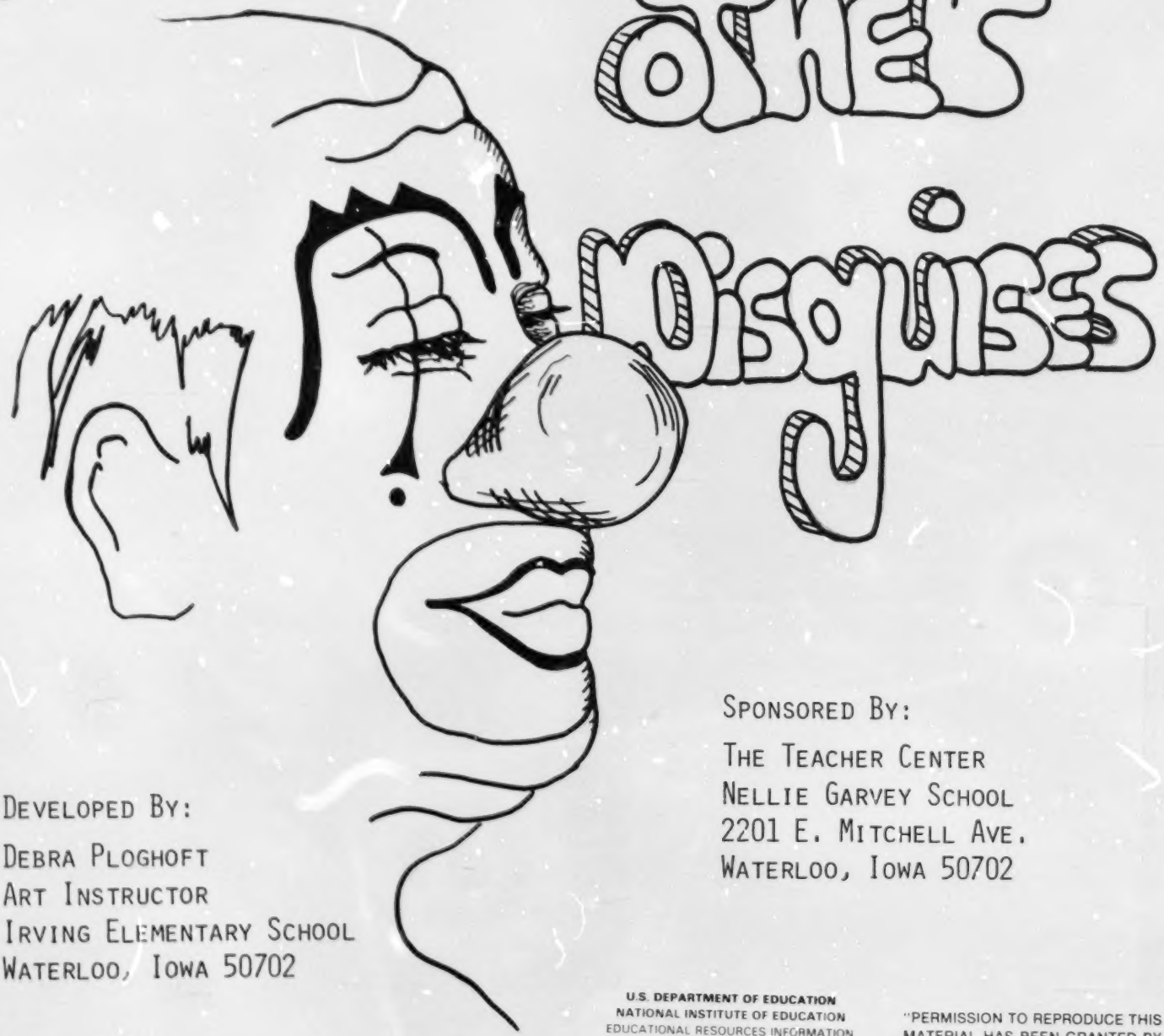
Masks and other Disguises



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Teacher Center Director - Diane Gibson, Ed. D.

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This unit was not designed with the intent of giving one a complete knowledge of mask construction. As an elementary educator, I designed these examples basically for younger children, although many may be expanded upon for older students.

We ask our students to experiment daily. Shouldn't we, as educators, follow suit? These simple construction ideas should become a base or "springboard" to be further expanded on with your own ingenuity.

Experiment !!!

Debra Ploghoft

Paper Plate Masks

Paper plates are inexpensive, but valuable mask sources. For younger children, the teacher has extra preparation in the cutting of eyes and attachment of ties or handles. Here is an example of each style to help spur your imagination.

Clown Mask

(K-3)
30 min.

Supplies: paper plates, crayons, or oil pastels, balloons, (yarn and glue optional).

Teacher preparation:

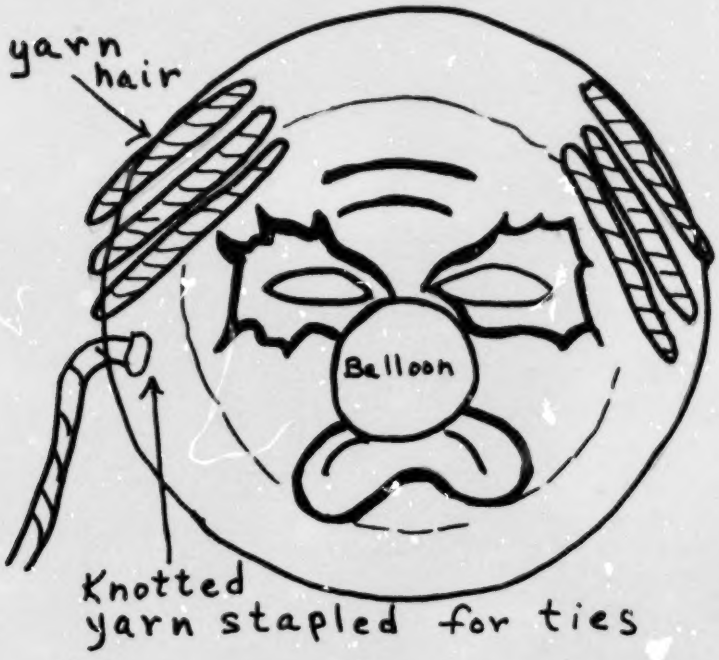
eyes cut (may cut several at one time with matt knife) and ties attached (yarn is terrific)

Motivation: Briefly discuss the circus and importance the clown plays.

Procedure:

- add all details on clown face with crayon omitting the nose
- make sure to accentuate the eyes
- make decision on mouth type ("Is your clown a happy clown, sad clown, or . . . ?")
- as students are working the teacher can poke the nose hole, into which a slightly blown balloon is inserted (age of child will determine whether teacher will have to blow up balloons)

- if time permits hair may be added with "thick" yarn pieces 4" long



Flower Mask

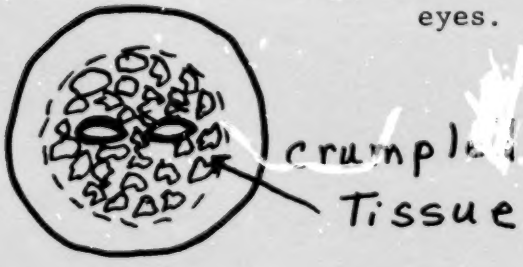
(K-3)
1 hour
(2-30 min.)

Supplies: 1st 30 min. - paper plates, glue, and tissue paper squares
2nd 30 min. - glue, scissors, construction paper strips (1½" x 7") green poster board (1" x 6")

Teacher Preparation: Have eyes cut

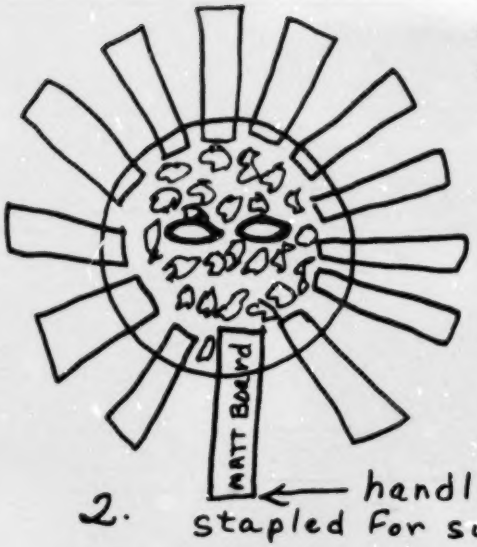
Motivation: Briefly discuss flower types and their bright and varied colors.

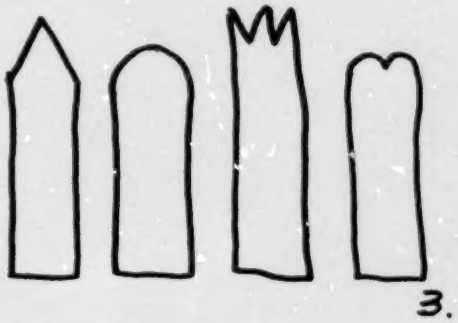
Procedure: 30 min. - glue crumbled tissue in center ring of paper plate taking care not to cover eyes.



1.

30 min. - glue construction paper strips around edge of plate for petals (ends may be trimmed if age of child and time permits





- teacher to filter around room and staple stem on edge below eyes for handle.

Top Hats (3-7)
1 hour

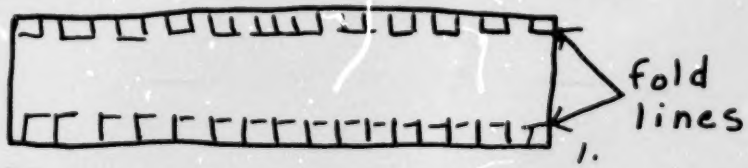
Supplies: paper plates, tag board strips 6" x 18", scissors, glue, and paint

Teacher Preparation:

an unglued example is a must to demonstrate construction

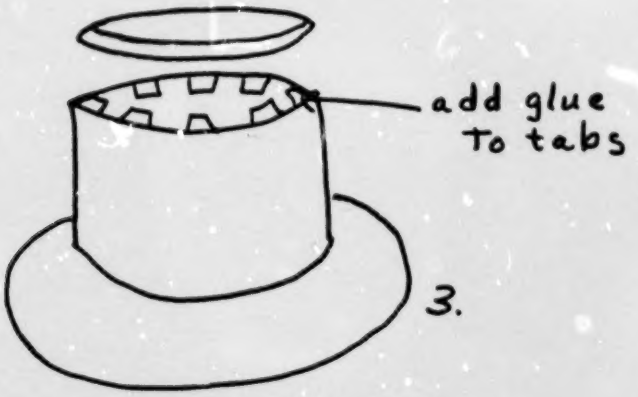
Procedure:

- cut center circle out of paper plate and place aside for top of hat (keep in one piece)
- take one tag board strip and fold edges and cut as shown all the way to fold lines



- bend into circle and slip paper plate ring over and glue as shown

- bend tabs at top in and place glue on each; place center circle on top and press
- paint



Construction Paper Masks

Construction paper is a super material for masks since it's very inexpensive and found in every room. The following masks can be constructed with minimal supplies: construction paper, scissors, glue or paste, and crayons.

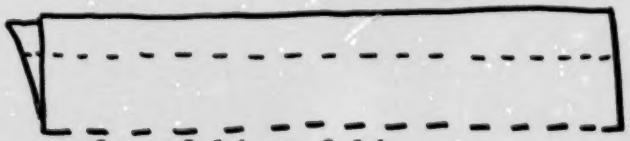
Headboard or Paper Strip Masks K-3

Paper Crowns 30 min.

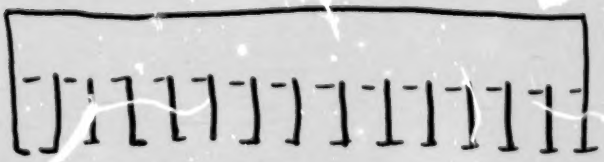
Supplies: 6" x 24" paper for crown, 6" x 18" hair-colored paper, scissors, paste, and crayons.

Procedure:

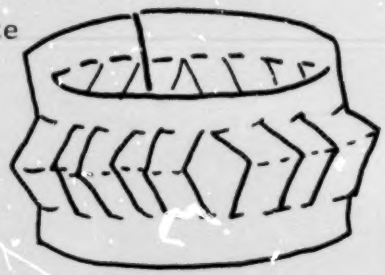
- fold 6" x 24" paper into 1/4ths lengthwise
- open so paper is still folded in half



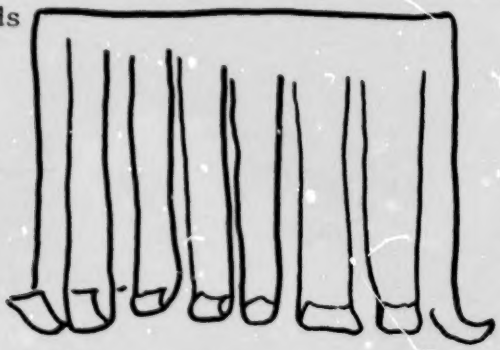
- cut from fold to fold
- open and decorate with crayons



- form circle and paste



- fringe 6" x 18" hair-colored paper and curl ends



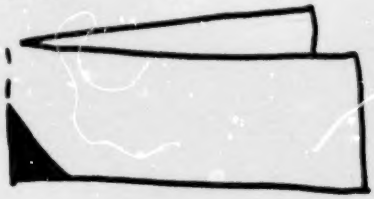
- paste hair to crown

Headband Style Masks 30 min.

Supplies: 4" x 24" construction paper, scissors, paste crayons, and scrap box

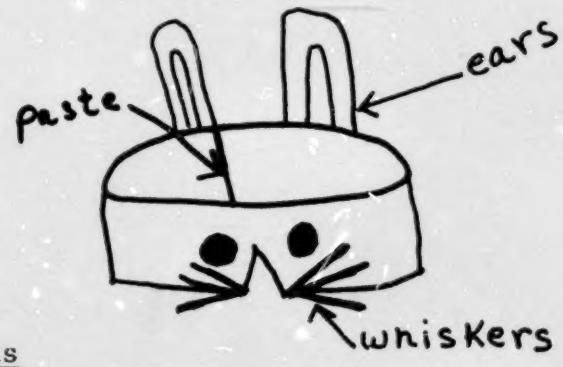
Procedure:

- fold strip in half crosswise and cut triangle slot for nose



- open and add eye holes
- color to represent any animal (add whiskers if needed)

- paste to form ring and add ears



Cone face masks K-3 30 min.

Supplies: 12" square paper, scissors, paste, crayons, and scrap box

Procedure:

- draw large circle on square or trim off corners depending on skill working on
- Put dot in center of circle and cut from outside edge to dot

- overlay edges to form cone shape

- cut eyes and color details
- add features (ears, whiskers, etc.)

Cone Hat Masks

K-3
30 min.

Same as cone face except relax cone to make a flatter shape, also placement of eyes and ears.

- make cone
- color eyes instead of cutting

Formed Paper Masks

Age: 4-7
1 hour

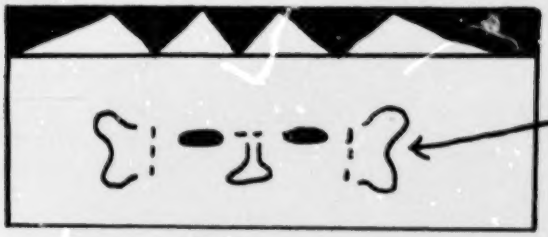
Supplies: 18" x 24" construction paper, scissors, paste, crayons, and scrap box

Procedure:

- on 18" x 24" paper, draw a line horizontally across paper and 4-6 large triangles

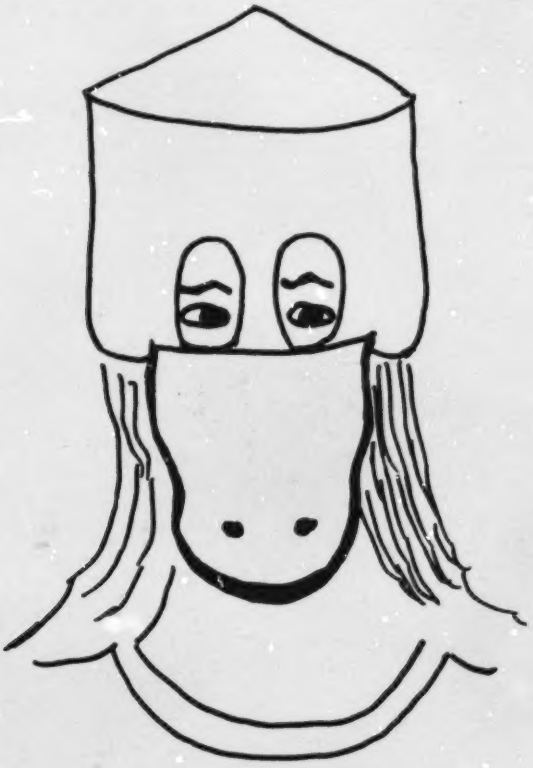
- cut eyes and triangles

- cut ears if desired
- join triangles at top to form mask (glue if time allows or staples will work)



- Cut shoulder holes

*If these masks are to be used in a play where speaking is necessary, they may be shortened in length so they end right above the mouth so voice clarity may be attained.



Glasses — Grades 1-9

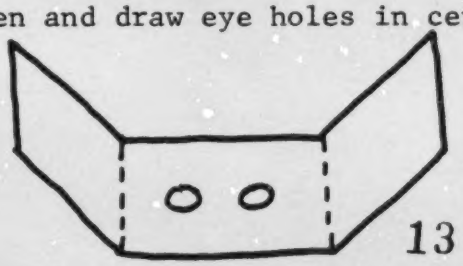
Glasses are another valuable mask medium. They seem to change the character of the person wearing them even more at times than a complete facial covering.

Funky Shades

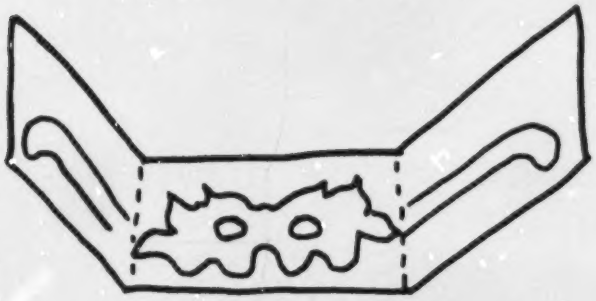
Supplies: 4" x 16" strips of tagboard (construction paper will work but not as durable), scissors, crayons, pencil, magic markers (optional), and cellophane and glue (also optional).

Procedure:

- fold tagboard strip into thirds
- open and draw eye holes in center box



- add frame of any style around eye holes
- connect frames to bows drawn in outer two boxes
- decorate totally before cutting out to keep from marking up working surface
- (optional step) add colored cellophane squares behind eye holes to give a sunglass effect; glue in place



Groucho Glasses — 30 min. - 1 hour

There are two ways to make these glasses depending on time and skills to be covered. The first is the fastest and easiest.

Groucho #1 — 30 min.

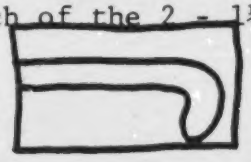
Supplies: 2 - 1" x 6" and 2 - 1½" x 6" black poster-board, 1 section of egg carton, scissors, glue, pencil, and fake fur or cotton (it takes very little) (stapler?)

Teacher Preparation:

have strips cut 2 per child, egg cartons separated into sections, pull cotton into little pieces (3 - 1" x ½")

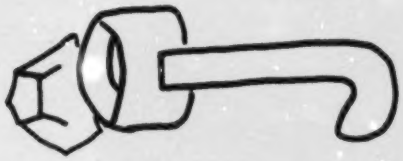
Procedure:

- bend the 2 - 1" x 6" strips each into a circle and glue; set aside. Draw and cut bows from each of the 2 - 1½" x 6" strips



- glue the two circles of poster board onto the egg carton section as shown (staples reinforce excellently, but limit staples to that area only)

- glue bows to circles as shown making sure ear ends bend same direction-down



- glue 2 pieces of fur on top of circles for eyebrows and one below nose for a mustache

Groucho #2 — 1 hour

Supplies: paper towel or toilet paper tube (2" section per glasses), 2 - 1½" x 6" light cardboard (lengthwise section of tube can be used), scissors, glue, black paint, paint brush, fake fur or cotton (small amount needed 3 - 1" x ½" sections), stapler (?), and egg carton section

Teacher preparation:

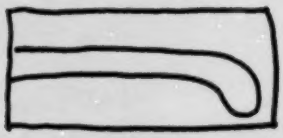
Cut 2 - 1" sections of tube, 2 - 1½" x 6" sections for bows (already drawn for very young), set up for painting situation, fur cut into 3 -

1" strips, and egg carton cut into sections

Teacher should have example made.

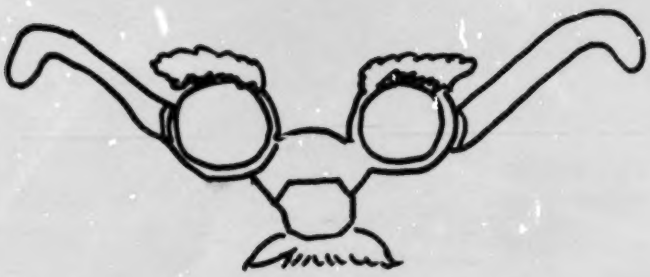
Procedure:

- paint tubes black and set aside to dry
- draw and cut bow; paint black
- while drying teacher can pick willing students to demonstrate bow glasses "change" them into "groucho" or what the glasses make them feel while they wear the teachers example.



- glue circles onto egg carton section as shown (staples will help reinforce as in groucho #1

- glue bows on frames as shown and add fur



Form Masks Grades 4-9

Some masks make use of three dimensional shapes. These shapes may be covered with various materials to develop the desired mask.

Primitive Wooden Mask 2 hours

These masks have an almost carved wood appearance, but need a lot of masking tape.

Supplies: plastic milk jug, matt knife (only for teachers use in elementary), masking tape, brown shoe polish, scissors, glue, and scrap box

Teachers preparation:

have cartons and eyes cut for younger students if already taped by teacher

Preparation:

- cut back off of carton leaving handle area intact (teacher will want to cut for younger ages)

- cut eye shape desired

- cover whole carton vertically with masking tape

- rub entire shape with shoe polish
- let dry - 1st hour should be at an end
- from scraps, add features of desired character
- glue all in place
- add ties or handle if desired

Paper Mache' Masks — time varies on amount of ornamentation

Paper Mache' #1 — 3 hours

Supplies: newsprint, colored tissue paper, balloons, wheat paste, paint brushes (preferably stiff bristles), scrap box, and yarn

Teacher Preparation:

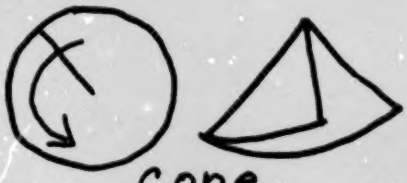
find storage place for masks and mix wheat paste (to mix wheat paste):

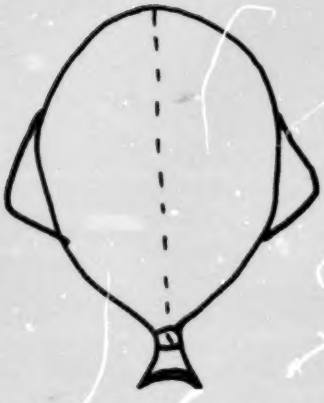
- add water into plastic container
- sprinkle in wheat paste until it stops being absorbed by water
- stir and add more wheat paste if necessary to obtain a thick soupy mixture without lumps

Procedure:

- blow up balloon and tie (one balloon serves two people)
- tear newsprint into medium sized pieces
- brush balloon with wheat paste
- with brush pick up one piece of newsprint and brush on balloon
- continue with newsprint until two layers of newsprint cover the balloon

- add features now if desired, noses can be attached egg carton sections or a cone shape (remember 2 people are using balloon)





- cover added features with one layer of newsprint. First hour is completed
- let dry, tear tissue paper into medium sized pieces as with newsprint
- add tissue to balloon just as you did with newsprint
- blushing in cheeks or etc. can be added first before the tissue to add subtle coloring
- after two layers of tissue are applied, lay aside to dry. Second hour is completed
- decorate mask with scraps and other supplies around room
- add yarn for hair if desired or any other hair-like substance at your disposal
- add ties or handles

Paper Mache' #2 — 2-3 hrs.

This mask involves a lot of painting, and therefore, can use newspaper instead of newsprint if desired.

Supplies: newspaper, wheat paste, balloon (1 per 2 people), paint brush (preferably stiff bristled), scissors, yarn, glue, and various colors of paint.

Teacher Preparation for first hour:
mix wheat paste (mask #1 has procedure)

Procedure:

- blow up balloon and tie end (one balloon per two students)
- tear newspaper into medium sized pieces
- with paint brush, coat balloon with wheat paste
- pick up one piece of newspaper at a time with paint brush and brush on the balloon
- continue process until the balloon has three layers
- add features as in paper mache' I masks

*Older children may want to make detailed features by making a mulch by letting shredded newspaper soak in water for <u>several</u> days; sprinkle on wheat paste and stir well before using

- let mask dry when finished

<u>First hour should be completed</u>

Teacher Preparation:

have masks split down middle, painting supplies ready, yarn, scissors, and glue ready, and eyes cut

- divide sections of mask into different colors by laying down yarn as borders. Yarn will remind them where to stop plus add texture and a personality of its own. Yarn also breaks them away from traditional faces and forces them to experiment
- paint in between the yarn (this process may take anywhere from one to two hours depending on your students. Also older children may not want to use the yarn method and just strictly paint them
- add ties or handles if desired